



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2012

No. 107

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, You have already blessed us this day. We pause now to acknowledge that we borrow our heartbeats from You and that because of You we live and breathe and move and have our being.

Continue to nourish and sustain this Nation during these difficult and dangerous days. Thank You for the brave men and women in our Armed Forces and the members of their families who daily sacrifice to keep freedom's flame burning.

Lord, surround our lawmakers this day with Your spirit of reconciliation that they may put aside that which brings division and embrace that which engenders unity. May Your blessing and benediction enable our Senators to work together in harmony and peace.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DISCLOSE ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 446, S. 3369.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 3369, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements of corporations, labor organizations, super PACs, and other entities, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, the time until 12:30 p.m. today will be divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority the second 30 minutes.

We will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. today to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

Additionally, the time from 2:15 p.m. until 3 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled. At 3 p.m. there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the DISCLOSE Act, which was debated last night and will be debated again this morning.

THE DISCLOSE ACT

Mr. President, the corrosive effect of money on American politics isn't a product of the 21st century. More than 100 years ago, moneyed special interests had already tested the integrity of this country's political system.

In 1899, copper billionaire William Clark was elected to the U.S. Senate by the Montana State legislature. The contest was considered so blatantly swayed by bribery the Senate refused to seat him. Here is how Clark famously responded:

I never bought a man who wasn't for sale.

We in Nevada have some connection with that name because Las Vegas is in Clark County. Clark County was formed in the early part of the 20th century. The largest county in America was Lincoln County and that was divided between Lincoln and Clark Counties, and this character, William Clark, is who that county was named after.

But after Clark made this remark, and people realized he had blatantly swayed the State legislature by bribery, the U.S. Senate refused to seat him. He became a Senator anyway—not for long, but he became a Senator. As I have learned from people who know a lot about Montana history, Clark was very clever. The Governor of the State of Montana went to San Francisco, to the acting governor—the lieutenant governor—after he was denied his seat, and he reappointed him to the Senate. So he got to the U.S. Senate by virtue of the shenanigans that took place. Incensed Montana voters went on to pass the Corrupt Practices Act via a referendum. They voted for it. Less than a decade later, Republican President Theodore Roosevelt reined in unlimited corporate giving to political candidates at the Federal level as well—not only in Montana but at the Federal level.

This Nation has a long history of curbing the corrupt influence of money in politics. But with the Citizens

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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